

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

ERDA-05 OES-06 /074 W

-----052040 041860 /40

R 051100Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 383

INFO AMEMBASS BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

SECDEF WASHDC

USINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

CHMN USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1733

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MASS BR

SUBJECT: ELEMENTS OF PRESS MISINTERPRET REVERSIONARY RIGHTS  
AGREEMENT

REF: 76 BRASILIA 10609

1. BRAZILIAN ARMY RELEASE CARRIED IN PRESS MARCH 4 ANNOUNCED  
USG-GOB REVERSIONARY RIGHTS AGREEMENT SIGNED IN BRASILIA  
MARCH 3. IN COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE TERMS, RELEASE EXPLAINED  
MEANING OF AGREEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED OVER THE PAST  
YEAR AND GIVES BRAZIL TITLE OVER US SUPPLIED MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT IN RETURN FOR A TOKEN PAYMENT. RELEASE TOOK  
PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT AGREEMENT IN NO WAY WOULD LEAD TO A  
DISSOLUTION OF THE JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION WHICH WOULD  
CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS IT HAD IN THE PAST, AND "DID NOT  
SIGNIFY A DENUNCIATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TREATY."

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2. WHILE PRINTING ARMY'S PRESS RELEASE, BOTH CORREIO BRAZILENSE  
AND O GLOBO CARRIED STORY UNDER MISLEADING HEADLINES  
THAT BRAZIL AND US HAVE CANCELLED PART OF THEIR MILITARY ACCORD.  
SIMILAR INTERPRETATION APPEARED IN COLUMN BY ADIRSON DE BARROS  
IN RIO'S ULTIMA HORA. CORREIO CLAIMED THAT IN SPITE OF THE  
BRAZILIAN ARMY'S ACCENTING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN HELD  
OVER A LONG PERIOD, POLITICAL CIRCLES SAW IN THE

AGREEMENT A BRAZILIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, PARTICULARLY VIS A VIS URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA. CORREIO SAID BRAZIL WAS SHOWING ITS SOLIDARITY WITH URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA BY SIGNING THE AGREEMENT.

3. JORNAL DO BRASIL CARRIED A DENIAL BY ITAMARATY SPOKESMAN THAT THERE WAS ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN SIGNING OF REVERSIONARY RIGHTS AGREEMENT AND ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD, NOTING THAT REVERSIONARY RIGHTS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN IN PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

4. COMMENT. DISTURBING ASPECT OF CORREIO TENDENTIOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT IS THAT NEWSPAPER IS SOMETIMES CONSIDERED A GOVERNMENT OUTLET, THOUGH WITH A REPUTATION FOR IMPRECISE REPORTING. SIMILARLY, WHILE ULTIMA HORA IS NOT CONSIDERED A GOVERNMENT MOUTHPIECE, COLUMNIST ADIRSON DE BARROS IS REPUTED TO REFLECT ATTITUDES AND VIEWS OF SOME OF MORE NATIONALISTIC MILITARY. THUS, WHILE BRAZILIAN MILITARY HAS ISSUED AN ACCURATE NEWS RELEASE ON THE AGREEMENT, WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY HAVE MISREPRESENTED IT TO THEIR PRESS CONTACTS BECAUSE OF THEIR UNHAPPINESS OVER US OPPOSITION TO THE NUCLEAR ACCORD OR THE US ACTION IN CUTTING BACK AID TO ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY. BOTH CORREIO AND ULTIMA HORA HAD MADE SIMILAR NATIONALISTIC INTERPRETATIONS WHEN FIRST REPORTING THE AGREEMENT LAST YEAR (REFTELS), INTERPRETATIONS WHICH THE MILITARY, UNTIL ITS RELEASE YESTERDAY, HAD NOT CHOSEN TO CORRECT VERY ENERGETICALLY.

CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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